



AMETHYST

PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

95¢
5
MAY 85



WE'VE ONLY
SECONDS TO REACH
THE GEMWORLD, AMETHYST--
OR WE'LL BE STRANDED
HERE **FOREVER!**



SUDDENLY THERE IS MAGIC... AND A CHILD'S DREAMS
BECOME REALITY! FOR ON A WORLD OF FANTASY, RAY
WINSTON LEADS ANOTHER LIFE-- THE LIFE OF...

AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD

HE'S NOT
LETTING GO!

EVEN AFTER I
KNOCKED THE HEAD
OFF CARNELIAN'S
ROBOT--

--HE'S STILL
TRYING TO
KILL US!

CARNELIAN, ADOPTED SON OF DARK
OPAL, HAS TAKEN UP NEW RESIDENCE
SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS
GEMWORLD HOME! BUT IT WILL SOON
BE CLEAR THAT HE IS NO LESS DANGEROUS
IN HIS CURRENT GUISE AS...

THE BOY NEXT DOOR

DAN
MISHKIN & GARY
CONN
WRITERS

RIC
ESTRADA &
ARTISTS

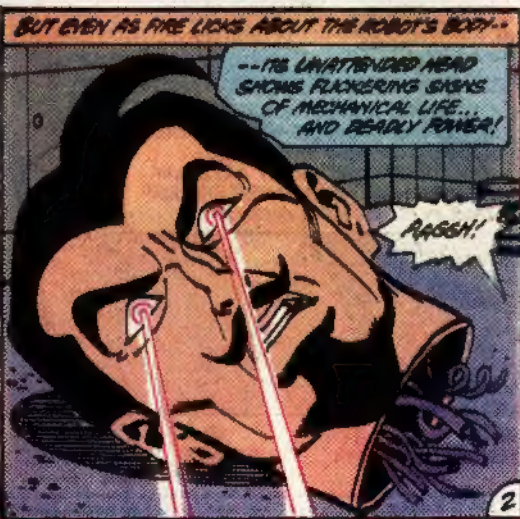
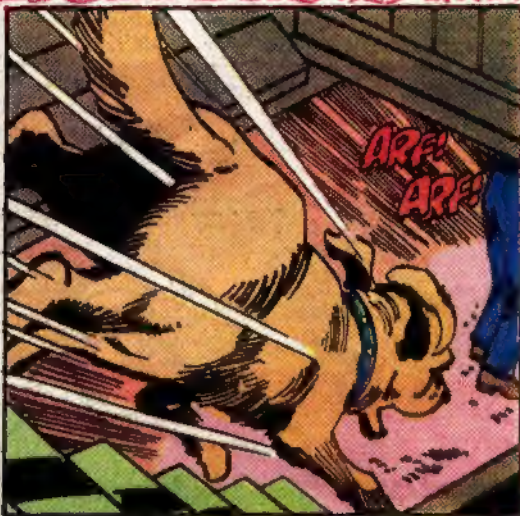
ROMEO
TRASHAL

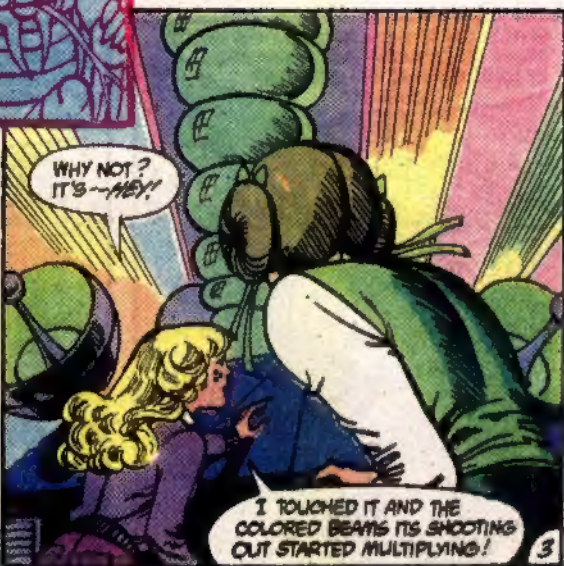
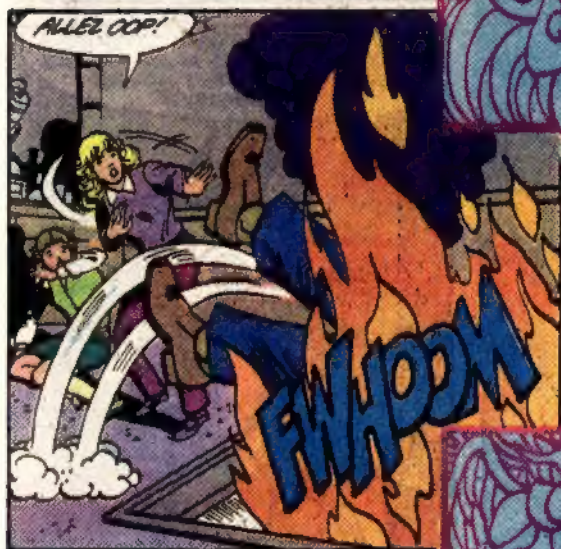
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I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE MACHINE GENERATING A *MAGICAL AURA*, EMMY!

JUST STICKING MY HAND IN IT MAKES ME FEEL ALL TINGLY, LIKE I--



--I--

I'M CHANGING INTO *ANEMIST*!



AND WHEN I STEP OUT--

--I'M *AMY* AGAIN!

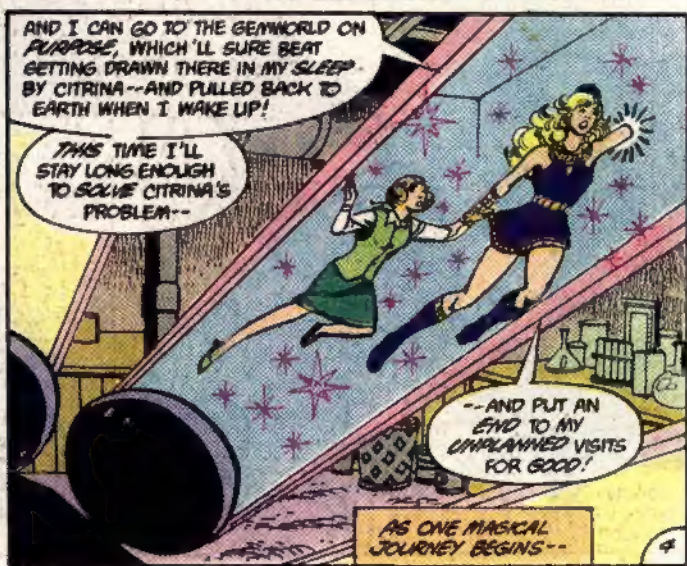
BUT *WHY* WOULD CARNELIAN CONSTRUCT SUCH A DEVICE?



THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON I CAN THINK OF FOR HIM TO DABBLE IN *MAGIC*...HE'S TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE *GEMWORLD*!



IF HE'S ON TO SOMETHING, EMMY, THIS MIGHT BE OUR WAY TO GET *YOU* BACK TO YOUR HOME AT THE *EMERALD DOMAIN*!



AND I CAN GO TO THE *GEMWORLD* ON *PURPOSE*, WHICH 'LL SURE BEAT GETTING DRAWN THERE IN MY *SLEEP* BY CITRINA--AND PULLED BACK TO EARTH WHEN I WAKE UP!

THIS TIME I'LL STAY LONG ENOUGH TO *SOVE* CITRINA'S PROBLEM--

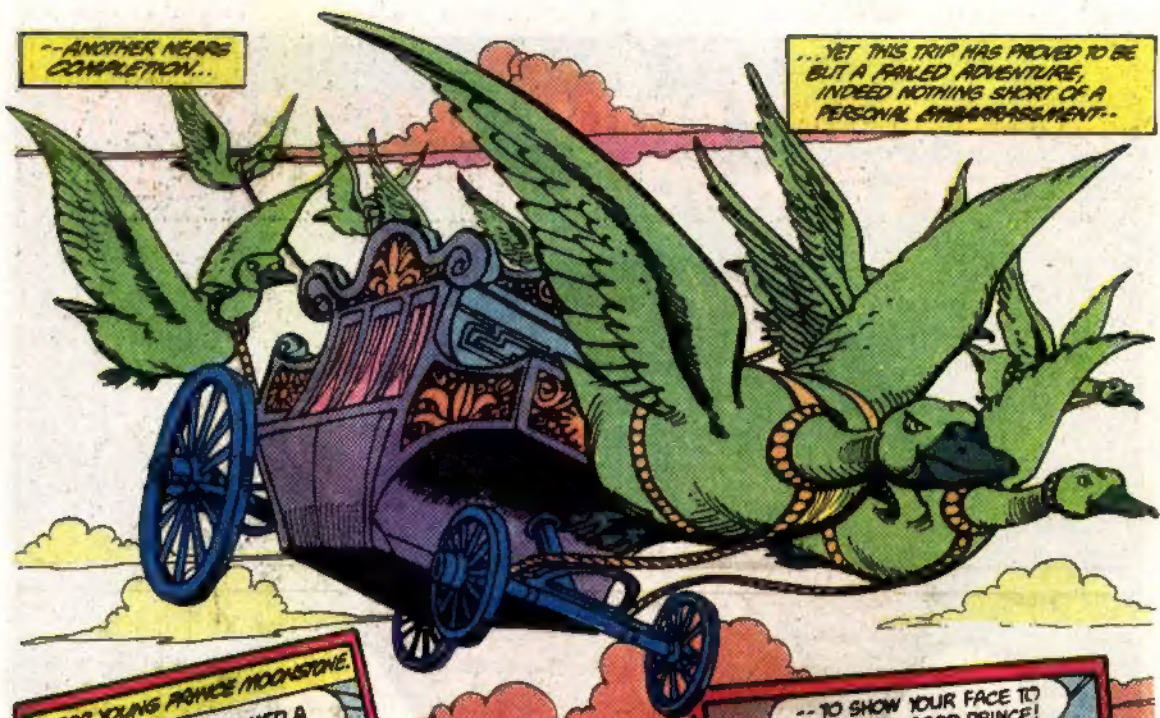
--AND PUT AN *END* TO MY *UNPLANNED* VISITS FOR GOOD!

AS ONE *MAGICAL JOURNEY* BEGINS--

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

--ANOTHER NEARS
COMPLETION...

...YET THIS TRIP HAS PROVED TO BE
BUT A FAILED ADVENTURE,
INDEED NOTHING SHORT OF A
PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT...



--FOR YOUNG PRINCE MOONSTONE.

I MUST HAVE SEEMED A
COMPLETE IDIOT, STANDING
SLACK-JAWED AS I
WAS!

I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO
SHOW MY FACE AT CASTLE
TURQUOISE AGAIN!

THEN YOU
SHALL HAVE
MORE TIME--

--TO SHOW YOUR FACE TO
ME ALONE, GOOD PRINCE!

EH? LADY
SAPPHIRE?!

H-HOW DID YOU
GET HERE?

I HAVE BEEN BESIDE YOU,
SILENT AND IMMOVABLE, SINCE YOU
DEPARTED MOONSTONE CASTLE
LONG BEFORE THE SUN AROSE!

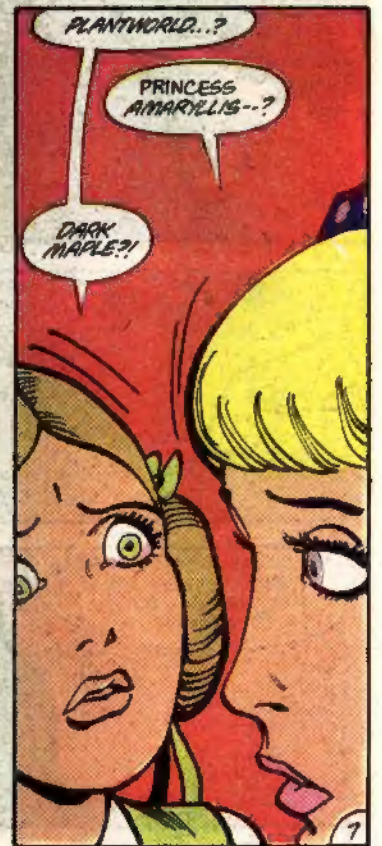
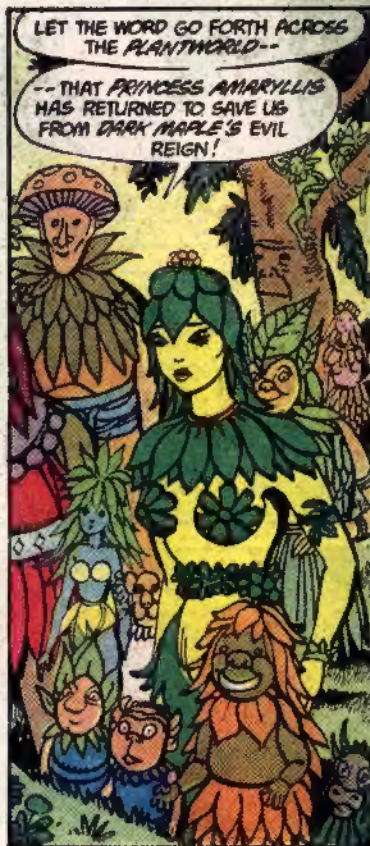
WHAT?

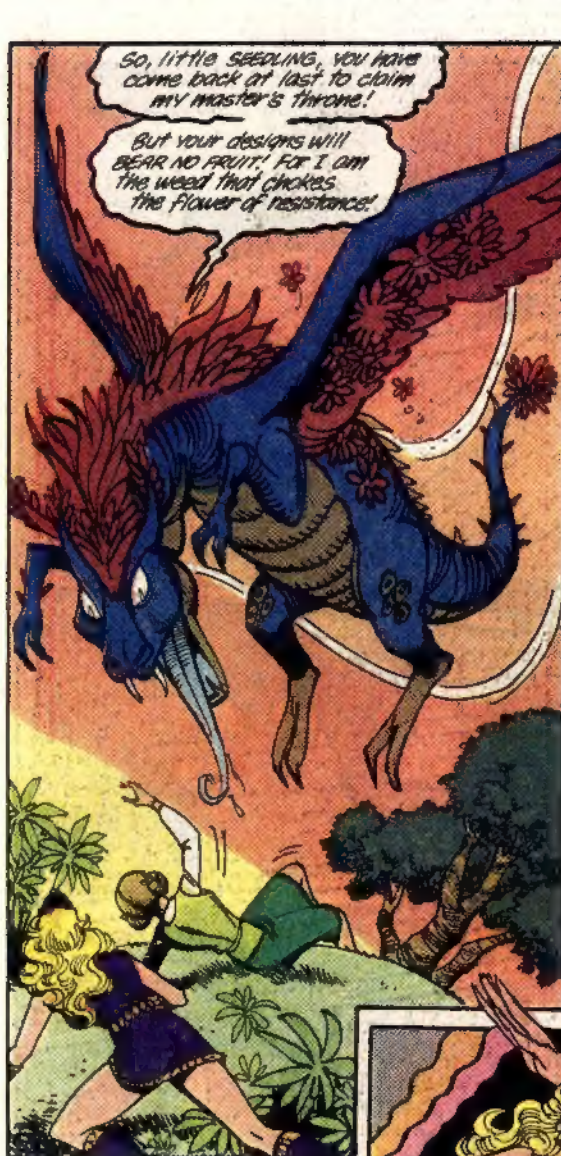
THEN...YOU SAW WHAT A
FOOL I MADE OF MYSELF
IN THE PRESENCE OF
LADY TURQUOISE!

WHAT A SILLY SUTTER
I APPEARED--









SO, LITTLE SEEDLING, YOU HAVE
COME BACK AT LAST TO CLAIM
MY MASTER'S THRONE!

BUT YOUR DESIGNS WILL
BEAR NO FRUIT! FOR I AM
THE WEED THAT CHOKES
THE FLOWER OF RESISTANCE!



I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE
CRABGRASS! I'M--

HUH? NO
MAGIC!



GET DOWN,
EMMY!



MY POWERS DON'T WORK HERE! WHATEVER
THIS PLACE IS, IT'S NOT THE GEMWORLD!

WAIT!
PRINCESS!

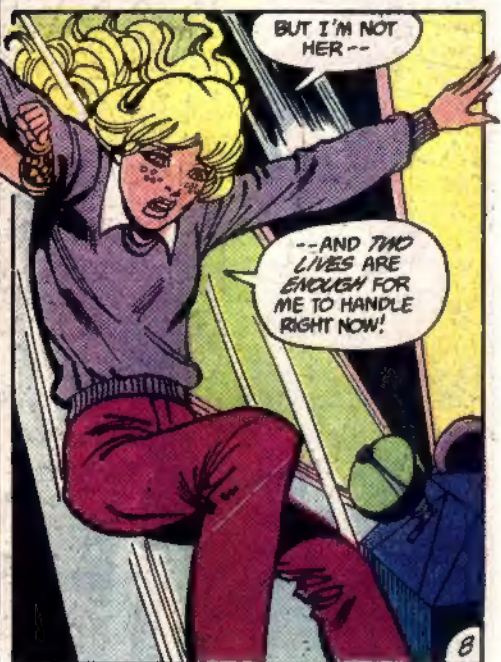


WE'D BETTER HUSTLE BACK
TO CHARL'S BASEMENT
WHILE WE STILL CAN!

BUT I WISH THAT
WE COULD HELP
THOSE PEOPLE!

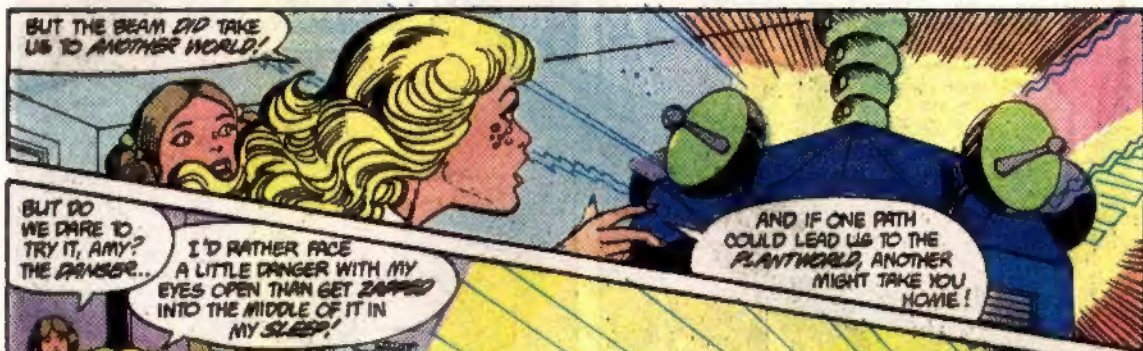
ME TOO! BUT
WITHOUT MY MAGIC,
WE WOULDN'T LAST
ONE ROUND AGAINST
DARK MAPLE!

MAYBE THE REAL
AMARYLLIS WILL FIND
THEM SOMEDAY...



BUT I'M NOT
HER--

--AND TWO
LIVES ARE
ENOUGH FOR
ME TO HANDLE
RIGHT NOW!



BUT THE BEAM DID TAKE US TO ANOTHER WORLD!

BUT DO WE DARE TO TRY IT, AMY? THE DANGER...

I'D RATHER FACE A LITTLE DANGER WITH MY EYES OPEN THAN GET ZAPPED INTO THE MIDDLE OF IT IN MY SLEEP!

AND IF ONE PATH COULD LEAD US TO THE PLAYTHORLD, ANOTHER MIGHT TAKE YOU HOME!



I'M GOING UP THAT ONE NEXT!



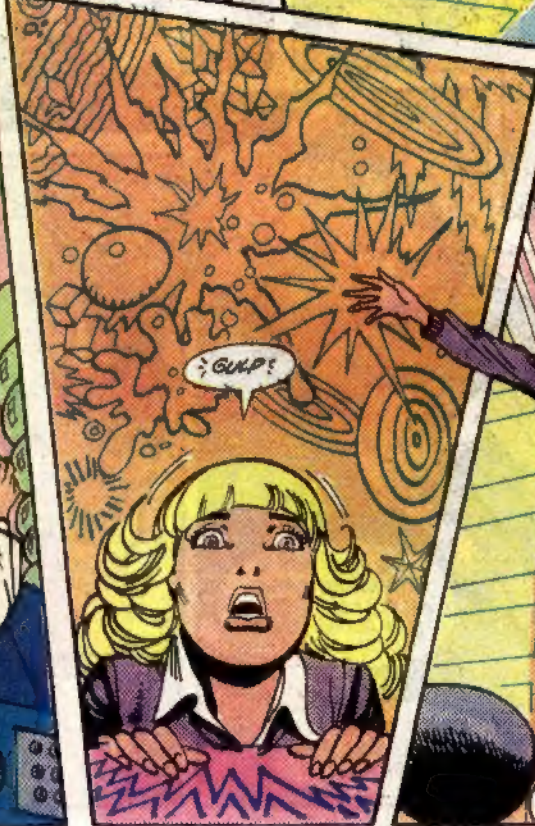
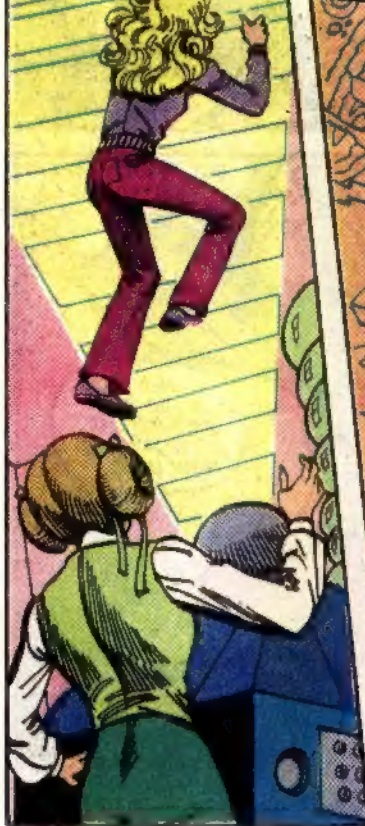
OOH, THIS IS WEIRD-- LIKE WALKING ON AIR! BUT THE BEAM'S NOT TRANSFORMING ME TO ANYTHING!



AMY, BE CAREFUL--!



MAYBE WHEN I'VE CLIMBED THROUGH THE CEILING, IT--



GULP!



STAND CLEAR, EMMY! I'M GETTING AWAY FROM THERE--

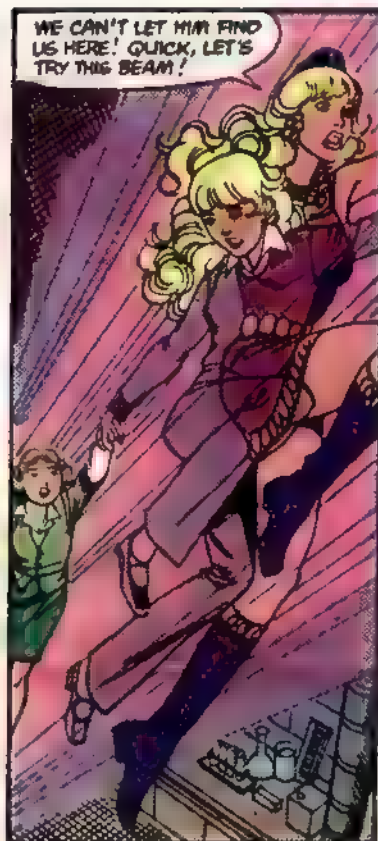
-- THE FASTEST WAY POSSIBLE.



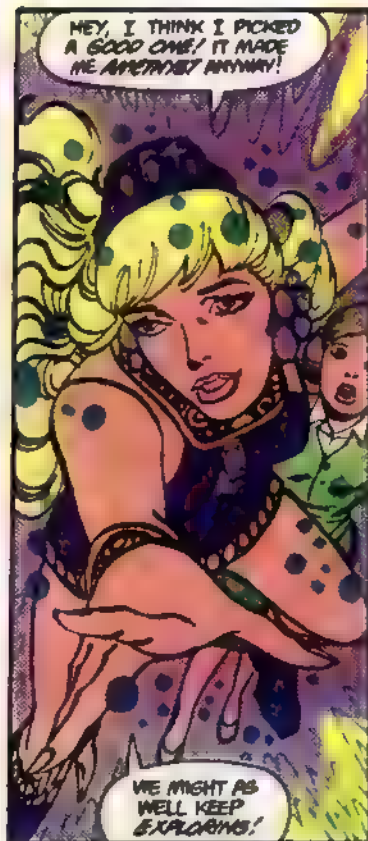
MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT, EMMY! MAYBE WE --

VERVIN'S TEETH! ANOTHER FAILURE!

THAT'S OWEN'S VOICE! HE'S COMING BACK THROUGH ONE OF THE PASSAGES!

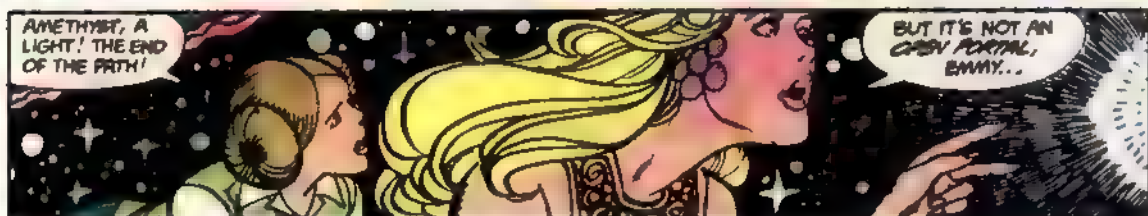


WE CAN'T LET HIM FIND US HERE! QUICK, LET'S TRY THIS BEAM!



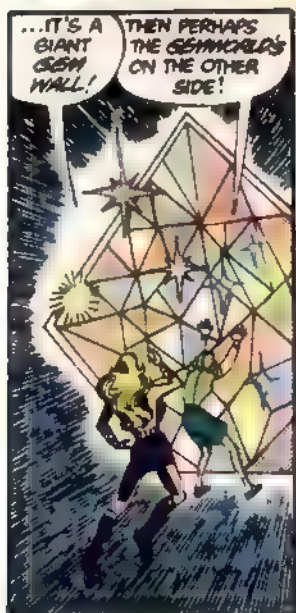
HEY, I THINK I PICKED A GOOD ONE! IT MADE ME ~~AMETHYST~~ ANYWAY!

WE MIGHT AS WELL KEEP EXPLORING!



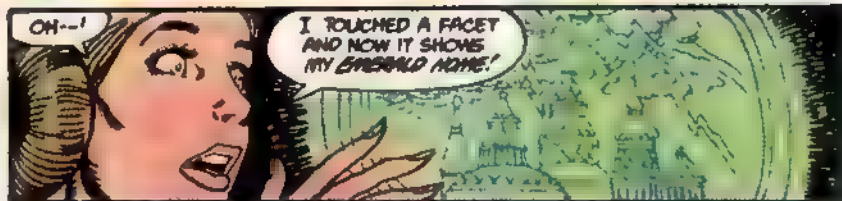
AMETHYST, A LIGHT! THE END OF THE PATH!

BUT IT'S NOT AN OVEN PORTAL, EMMY...



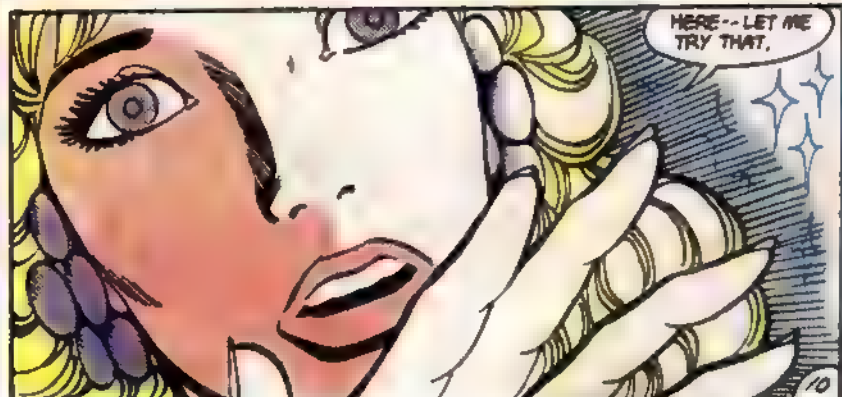
...IT'S A GIANT OVEN WALL!

THEN PERHAPS THE GEMMERS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE!

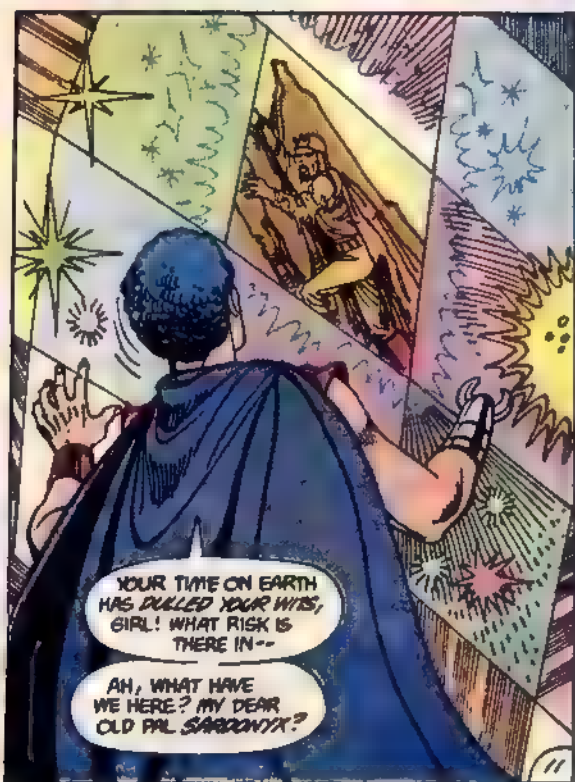
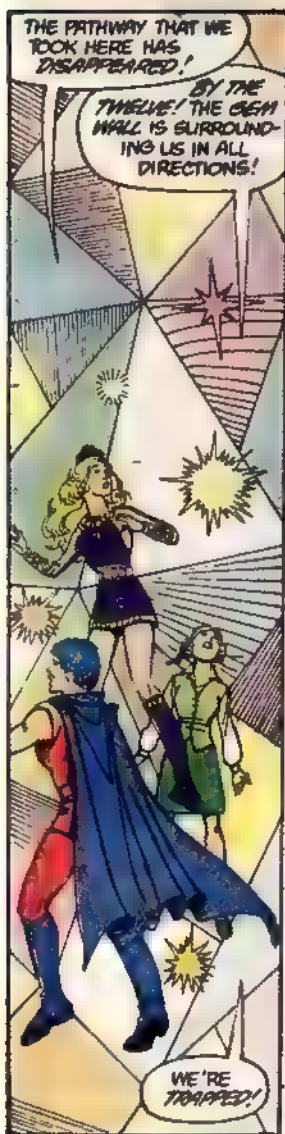


OH--!

I TOUCHED A FACET AND NOW IT SHOWS MY ~~EMERALD~~ HOME!



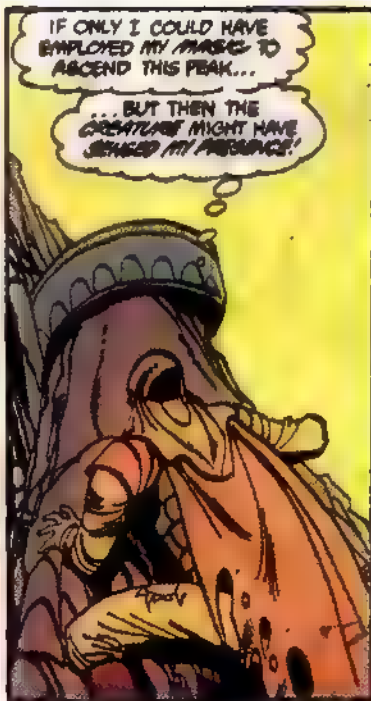
HERE-- LET ME TRY THAT.





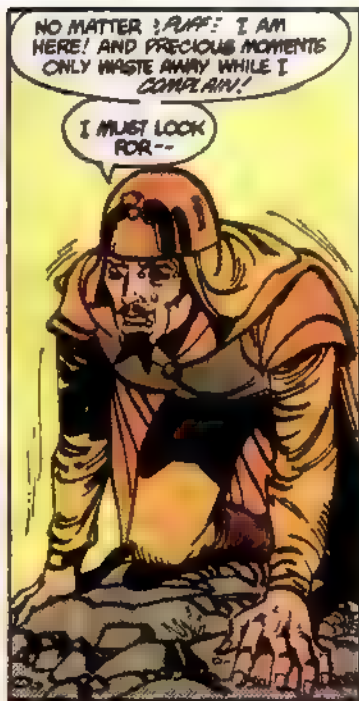
AND TO SEE HIM IS TO UNDERSTAND--

-- WHY THE
BEAMWORLD NEEDS
DURABLE SYNTHETIC
FABRICS!



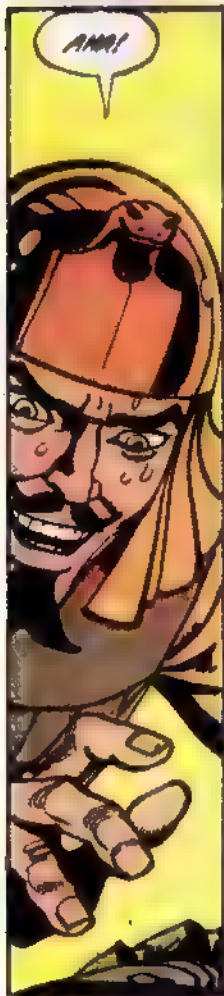
IF ONLY I COULD HAVE
EMPLOYED MY MAGIC TO
ASCEND THIS PEAK...

... BUT THEN THE
CREATURE MIGHT HAVE
SENSED MY PRESENCE!



NO MATTER ~~!Puff!~~ I AM
HERE! AND PRECIOUS MOMENTS
ONLY WASTE AWAY WHILE I
COMPLAIN!

I MUST LOOK
FOR--



AAA!



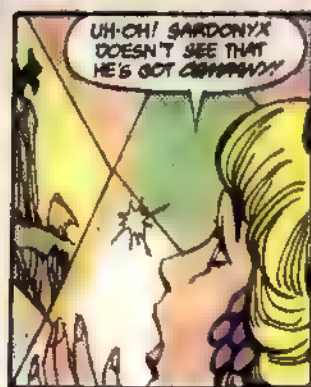
THE GOLDEN
CLAY!

AT LAST I'VE
FOUND THE MEANS
TO REACH MY
GOAL!

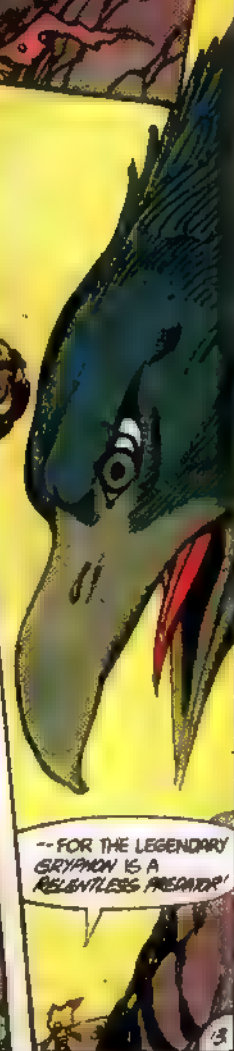


BUT TIME
RUNS SHORT
AND I MUST
HURRY THERE!

AND TOO I MUST
BE GONE FROM HERE
BEFORE THE BEAST
RETURNS!



UH-OH! SARDONYX
DOESN'T SEE THAT
HE'S GOT COMPANY!





IT WILL NOT CEASE ITS
ATTACKS UNTIL ONE OR
THE OTHER OF US--



--LIES
DEAD!



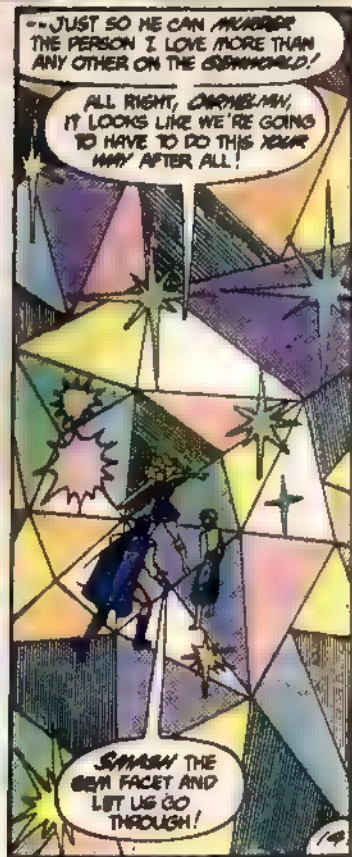
I WONDER...WAS IT
SOME SIXTH SENSE
THAT ALERTED ME TO
DANGER, OR HAS A
GUARDIAN SPIRIT COME
TO AID MY MISSION...



...THE KILLING OF
WITCH-MOTHER
CITRONIA?!



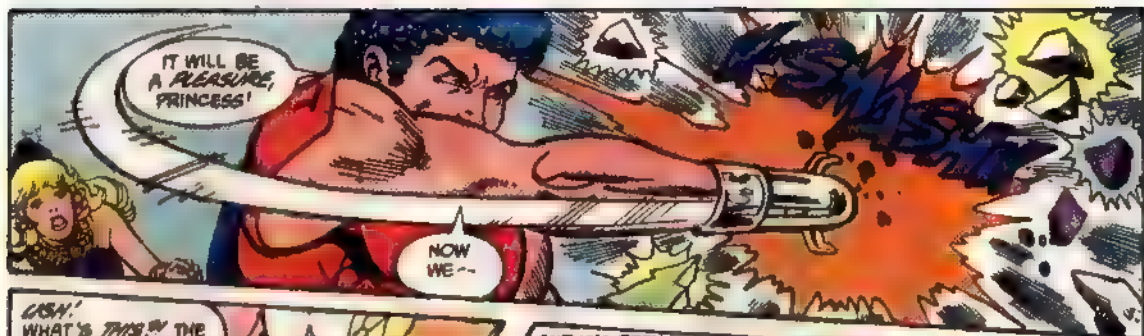
NO, I CAN'T
HAVE SAVED HIS
LOUSY LIFE--



--JUST SO HE CAN MURDER
THE PERSON I LOVE MORE THAN
ANY OTHER ON THE SHIPWRECK!

ALL RIGHT, CARMELO, I
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO DO THIS YEAR
MAY AFTER ALL!

SMASH THE
BEM FACET AND
LET US GO
THROUGH!



IT WILL BE
A PLEASURE,
PRINCESS!

NOW
WE--



GUY!
WHAT'S THIS? THE
GEMWORLD SCENE
HAS DISAPPEARED!

AND IT'S BEEN
REPLACED BY THE THICK
MORASS OF CYBERDIMENSIONAL
MATERIAL THAT CLOGGED THE
REALM BETWEEN!

IT HAPPENED ON
ONE OF MY TRIPS BACK
FROM THE GEMWORLD! ♪

"CLOSED"--?

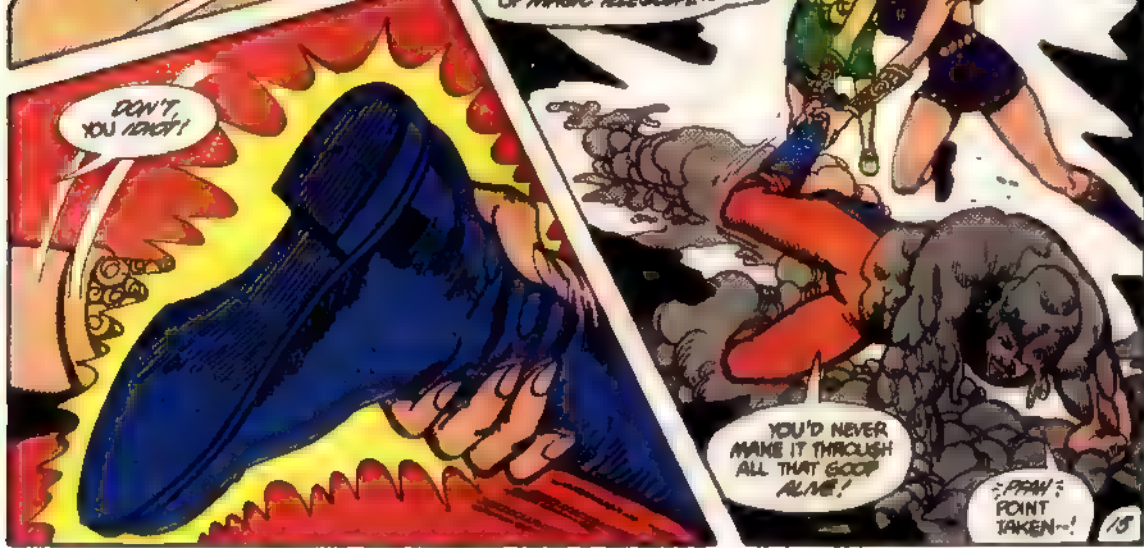
NO
MATTER! I
WILL NOT BE
DENIED PASSAGE
BACK TO MY RIGHTFUL HOME
AND STATION!

♪ SEE SOMETHING
ANNUAL #1--KID



AND IF I MUST
WADE THROUGH A
LITTLE SLIME TO
GET THERE...

--MAKING
THE GEMWORLD
SEEM CLOSER THAN
IT REALLY IS!



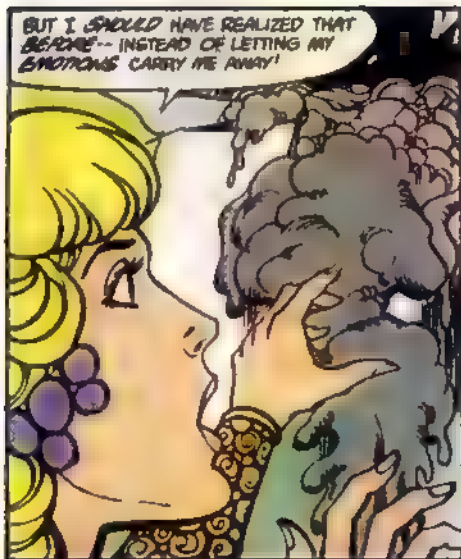
DON'T,
YOU IDIOT!

THAT FACET MUST
HAVE ACTED AS A SORT
OF AVOIDING REFLECTOR--

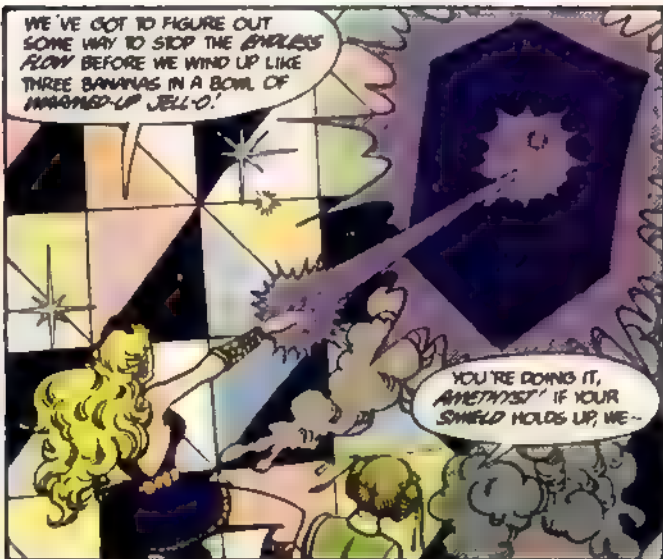
YOU'D NEVER
MAKE IT THROUGH
ALL THAT GOOP
ALONE!

♪ FRAV
POINT
TAKEN--!

BUT I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT
BEFORE-- INSTEAD OF LETTING MY
EMOTIONS CARRY ME AWAY!



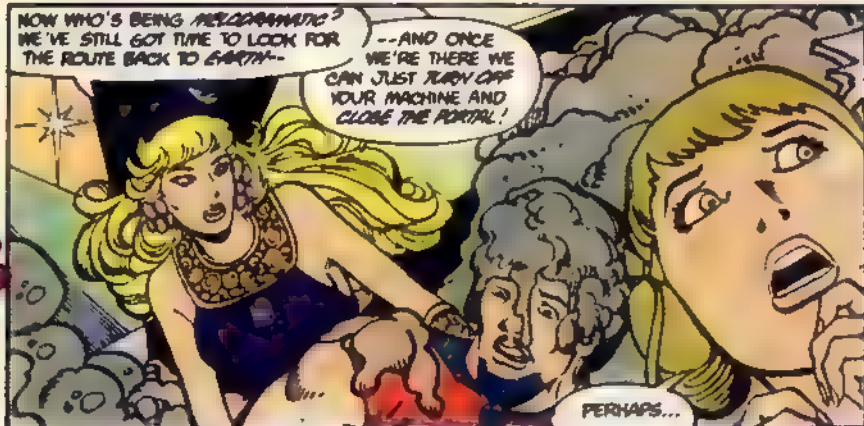
WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT
SOME WAY TO STOP THE ENDLESS
FLOW BEFORE WE WIND UP LIKE
THREE BANANAS IN A BOWL OF
MASHED-UP JELL-O!



YOU'RE DOING IT,
AMETHYST! IF YOUR
SHIELD HOLDS UP, WE--

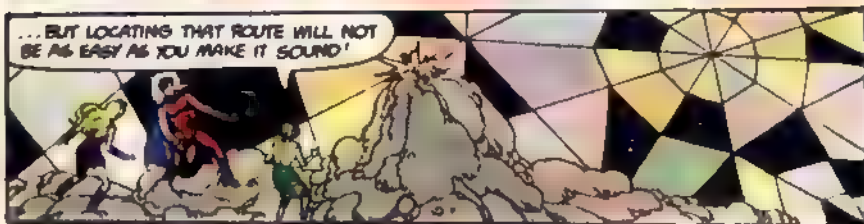
NOW WHO'S BEING MISGUIDED?
WE'VE STILL GOT TIME TO LOOK FOR
THE ROUTE BACK TO EARTH--

--AND ONCE
WE'RE THERE WE
CAN JUST TURN OFF
YOUR MACHINE AND
CLOSE THE PORTAL!



PERHAPS...

...BUT LOCATING THAT ROUTE WILL NOT
BE AS EASY AS YOU MAKE IT SOUND!



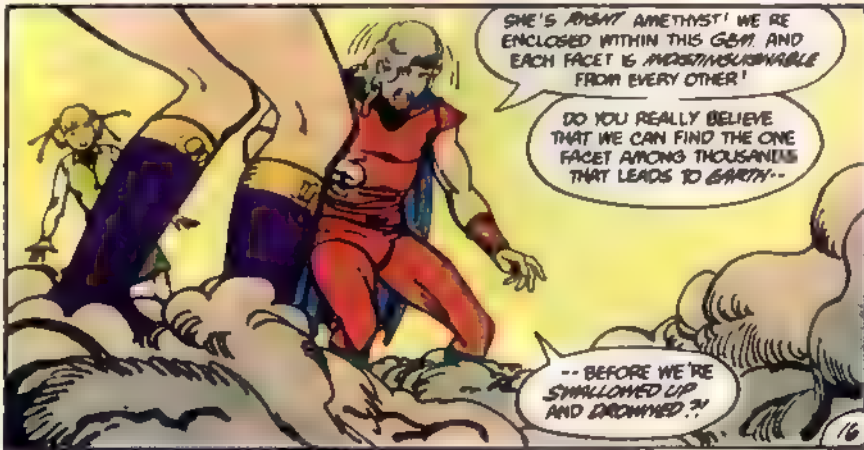
YEE!
WE'RE DOOMED!
DOOMED, I
TELL YOU!



SHE'S RIGHT AMETHYST! WE'RE
ENCLOSED WITHIN THIS GEM, AND
EACH FACET IS INDISTINGUISHABLE
FROM EVERY OTHER!

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE
THAT WE CAN FIND THE ONE
FACET AMONG THOUSANDS
THAT LEADS TO EARTH--

--BEFORE WE'RE
SWALLOWED UP
AND DROWNED?!



(CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING)

THE STORMY AERIALS, IN
THE BATTLEWORLD'S FAR
NORTH REACHES--



--HAVE NEVER SEEMED
SO DARK OR SO
LOVELY AS IN
RECENT WEEKS!

NOR HAS THE ARMY WHO
BUILT HIS HOME UPON THEM.

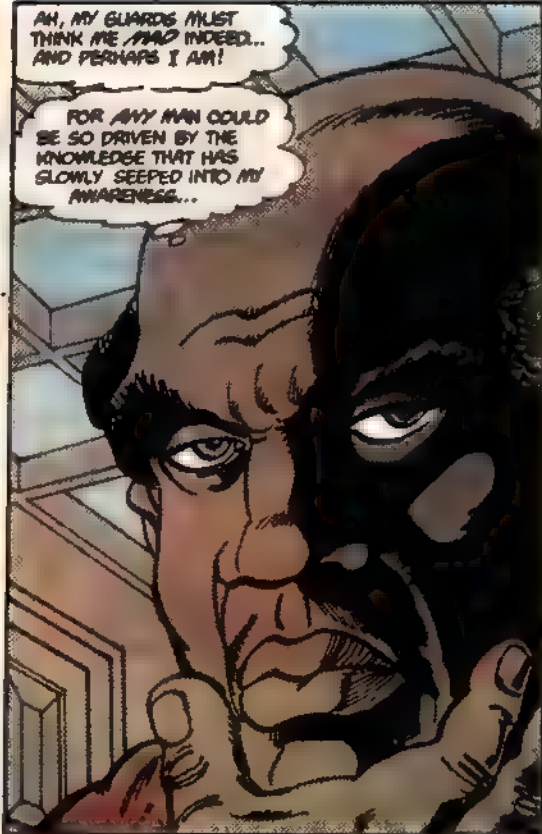
LORD GARNET IS
RENOWNED FOR HIS
GREAT MOORS, ULFOOR...
BUT I CANNOT RECALL
THE LAST TIME THAT I--

NOT SO LOUDLY,
DIAL--HE'LL
HEAR YOU!



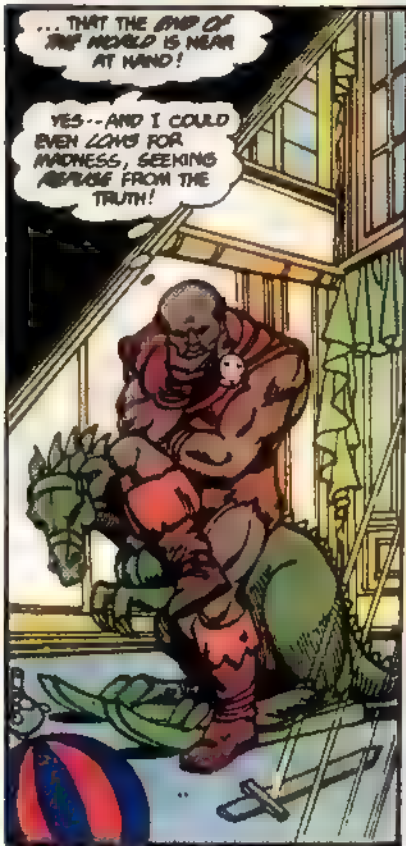
AH, MY GUARDS MUST
THINK ME /HAD INDEED...
AND PERHAPS I AM!

FOR ANY MAN COULD
BE SO DRIVEN BY THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT HAS
SLOWLY SEEPED INTO MY
AWARENESS...

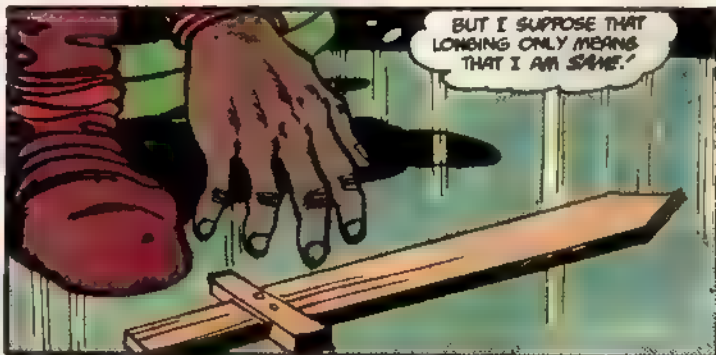


... THAT THE END OF
THE WORLD IS NEAR
AT HAND!

YES--AND I COULD
EVEN LONG FOR
MADNESS, SEEKING
REFUGE FROM THE
TRUTH!

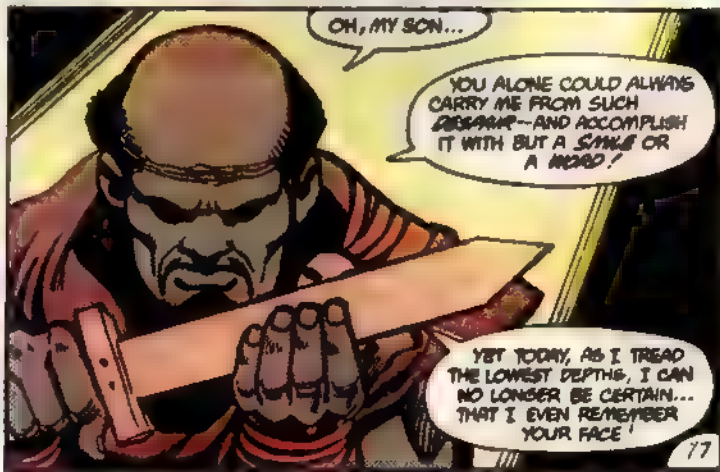


BUT I SUPPOSE THAT
LONGING ONLY MEANS
THAT I AM SAME.

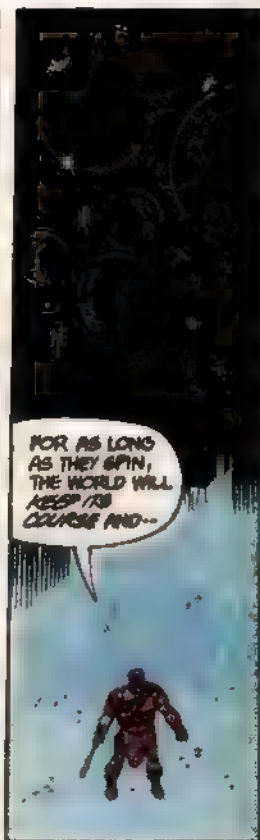
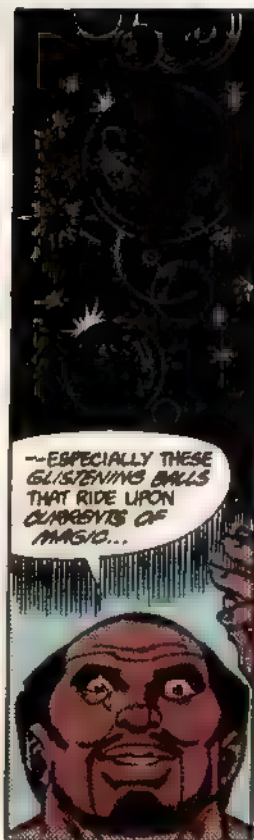


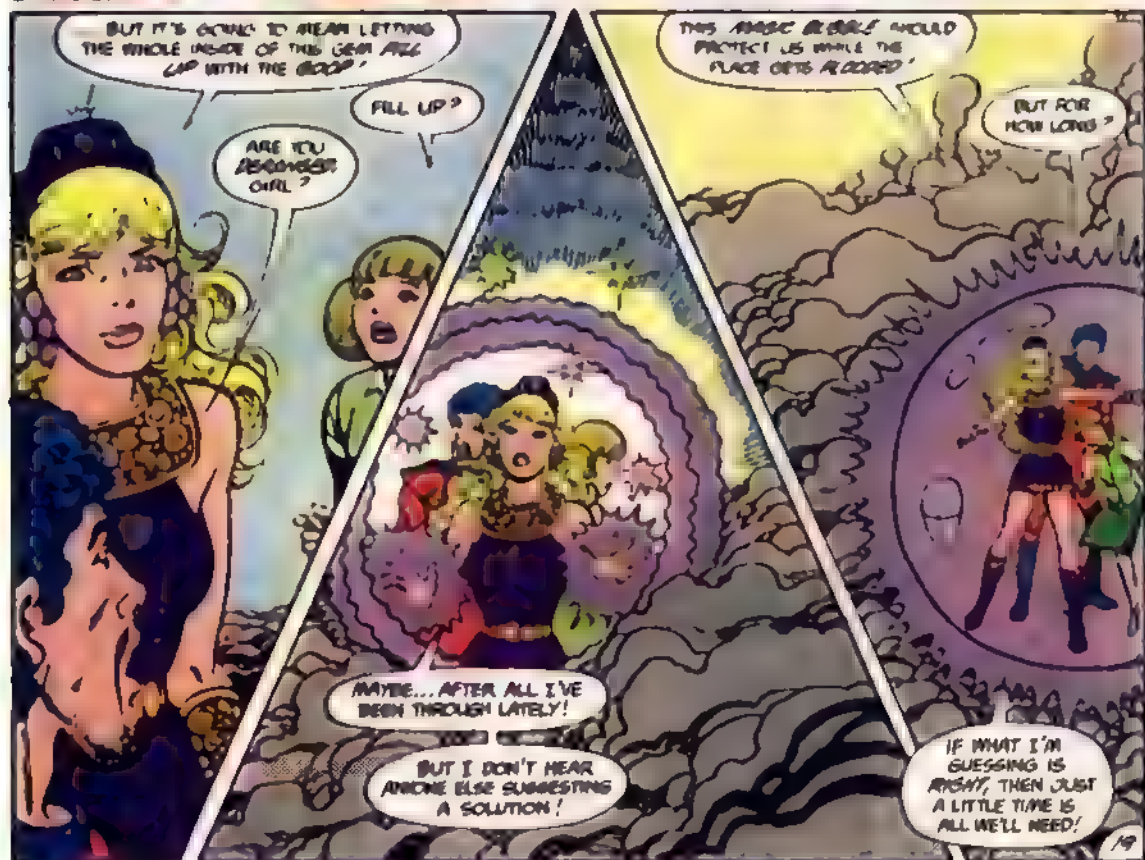
OH, MY SON...

YOU ALONE COULD ALWAYS
CARRY ME FROM SUCH
DREAMS--AND ACCOMPLISH
IT WITH BUT A SINGLE OR
A WORD!



YET TODAY, AS I TREAD
THE LOWEST DEPTHS, I CAN
NO LONGER BE CERTAIN...
THAT I EVEN REMEMBER
YOUR FACE!

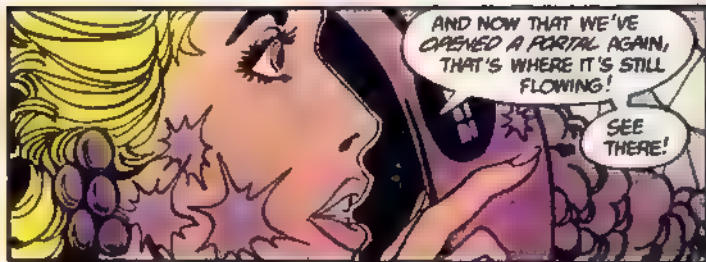






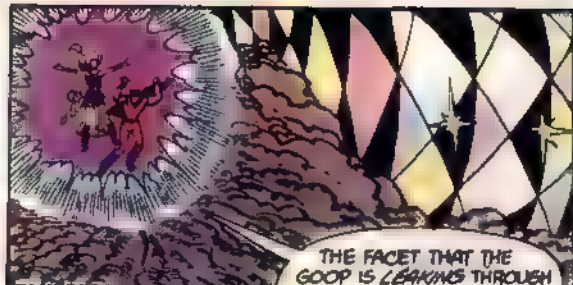
WHEN EMMY AND I MADE IT THROUGH THE INTERDIMENSIONAL REALM--

--ALL THE JUNK THAT GOT UNLEASHED WAS HEADING FOR EARTH!

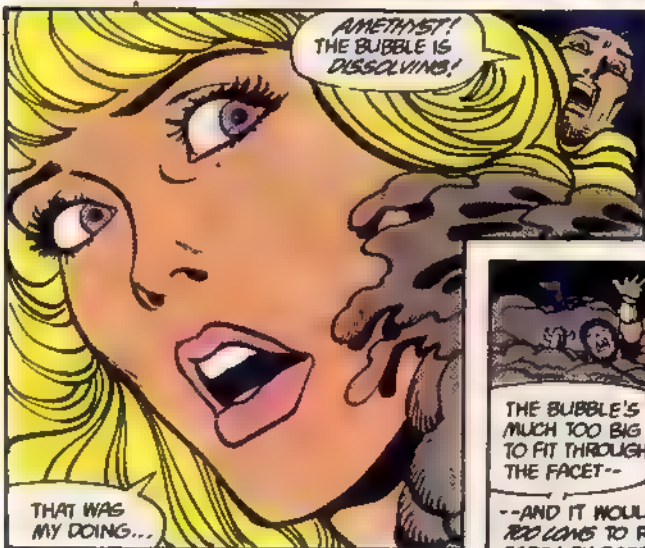


AND NOW THAT WE'VE OPENED A PORTAL AGAIN, THAT'S WHERE IT'S STILL FLOWING!

SEE THERE!

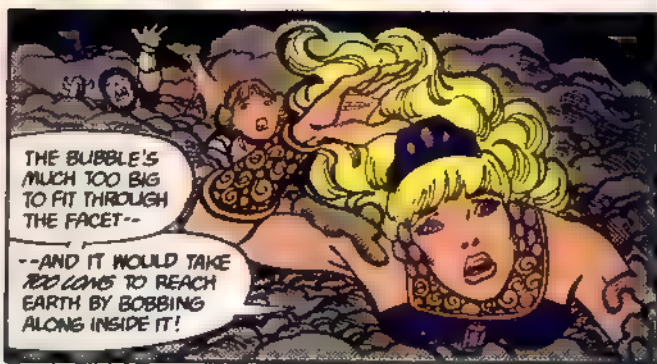


THE FACET THAT THE GOOP IS LEAKING THROUGH HAS GOT TO BE THE ONE THAT'LL TAKE US TO EARTH!



AMETHYST! THE BUBBLE IS DISSOLVING!

THAT WAS MY DOING...



THE BUBBLE'S MUCH TOO BIG TO FIT THROUGH THE FACET--

--AND IT WOULD TAKE *RED LONGS* TO REACH EARTH BY BOBBING ALONG INSIDE IT!

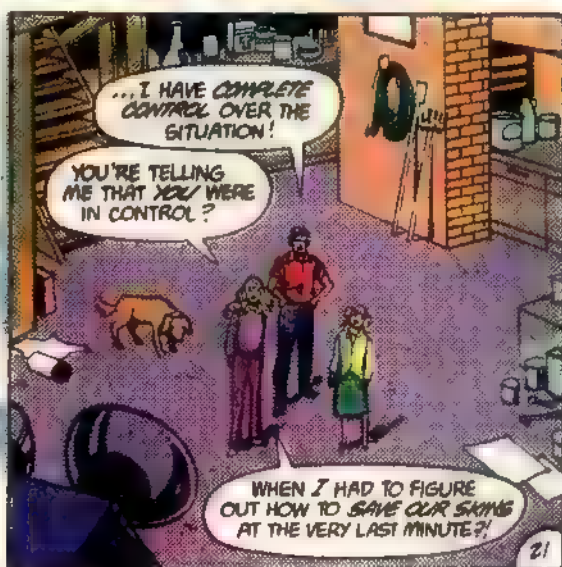
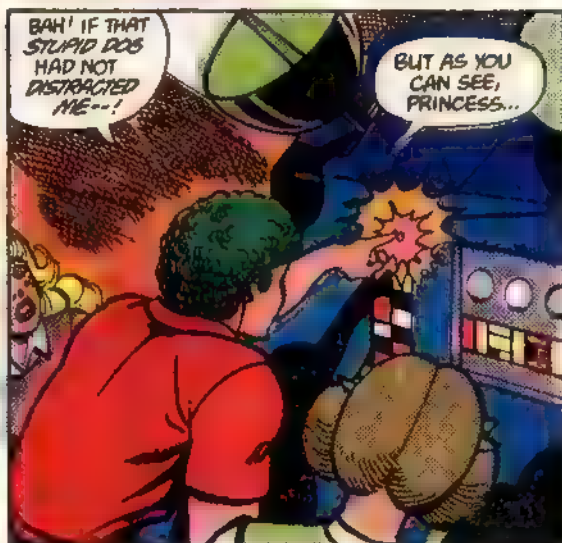
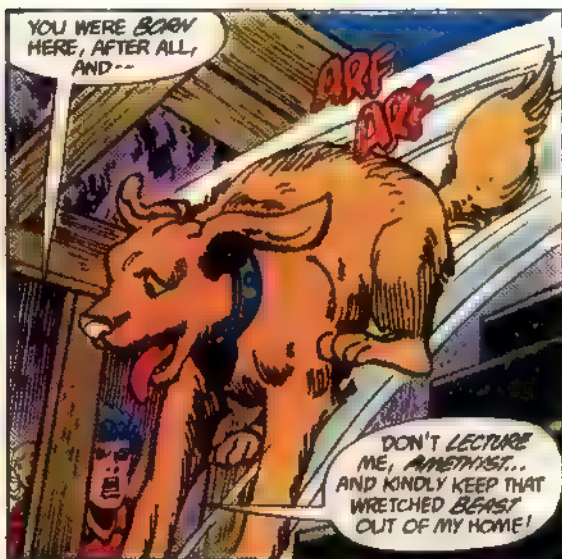
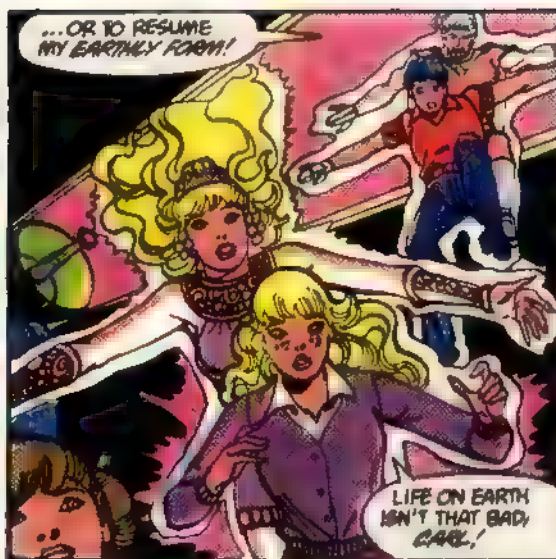


WE'VE GOT TO BEAT THE FLOW OF MAGIC GOOP BACK TO EARTH--



--BEFORE IT STARTS COZZING INTO YOUR BASEMENT!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO GLAD TO SEE THIS COLD, DARK PLACE...





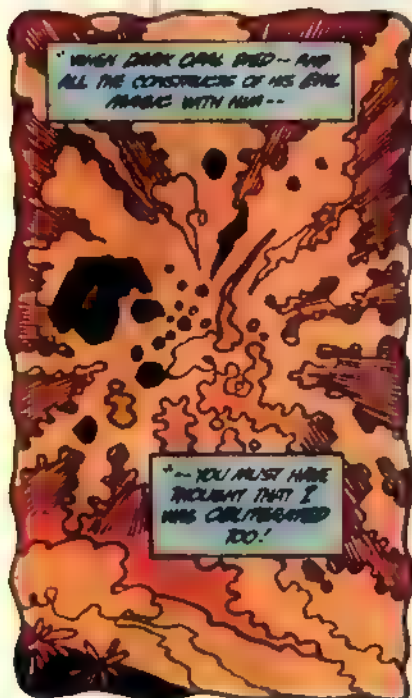
WHAT THE HECK
WERE YOU TRYING
TO DO HERE ANYWAY
CARL?

WHAT DID YOU
MOVE NEXT DOOR
TO ME AND SET
YOURSELF UP AS
A /FAN SCIENTIST
FOR?!



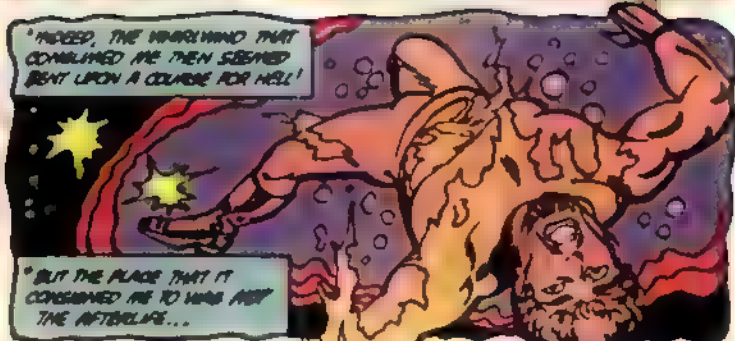
I - I ALWAYS
HAD BUT ONE
INTENTION...

...AND THAT
WAS TO FIND A
MEANS OF
RETURNING TO
THE OTHERWORLD



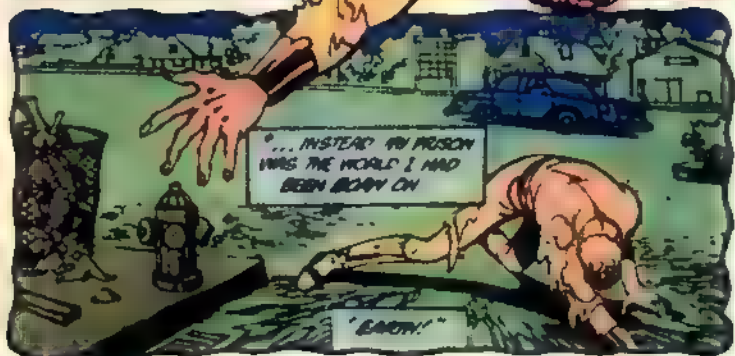
"WHEN DARK CARL DIED -- AND
ALL THE CONSTRUCTS OF HIS EVIL
FADING WITH HIM --

"-- YOU MUST HAVE
THOUGHT THAT I
WAS OBLIVIOUS
TO!"



"INDEED, THE WHIRLWIND THAT
CONSUMED ME THEN SEEMED
BENT UPON A COURSE FOR HELL!

"BUT THE PLACE THAT IT
CONSUMED ME TO WAS NOT
THE AFTERLIFE...



"... INSTEAD, MY PRISON
WAS THE WORLD I HAD
BEEN BORN ON

"EARTH!"

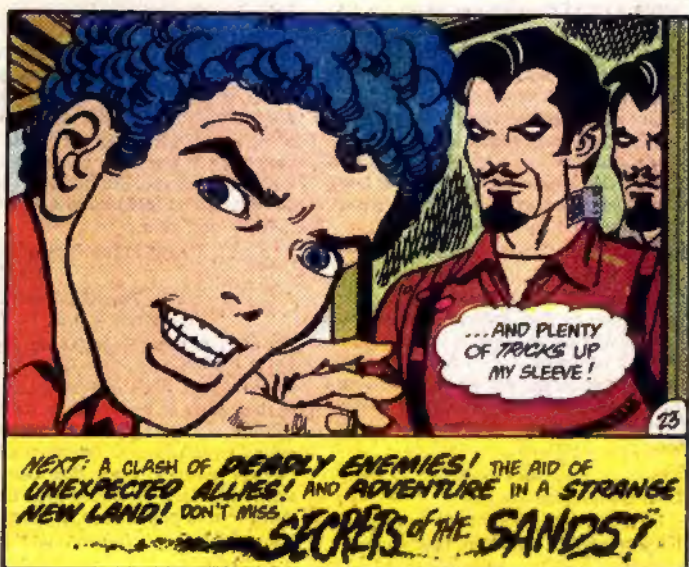


REALIZING WHERE I WAS, I
EMPTYED THE BRAINY ACCIDENT
THAT I HAD PRESIDENTLY
PLACED HERE...

...AND THEN I
BOUGHT YOU
OUT!

BUT I KNEW I COULDN'T SELL YOU ON
THE NOTION THAT YOU SHOULD RETURN ME
TO THE OTHERWORLD RIGHT AWAY--

--AND SO I PRESSED
THE TIME BUILDING MY
/FANSC/ GEMERATION, IN
HOPES THAT IT WOULD
DO THE JOB!





DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

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L-1937

Dear Editors,

Welcome back! It's good to see the Gemworld once again! I'll admit at first I was indifferent to your maxi-series (I could take or leave Amy/Amethyst), although I did like the issue in which her parents, especially her mother, interacted with the Gemworld creatures.

What sold me on the series was the introduction of other Gemworld companions for Amethyst: Princess Emerald, who's a lot like the earth Amy; Prince Topaz, who could be Amethyst's future love interest and consort; but most of all, Lady Turquoise, the impetuous woman who aspired to be Amethyst's eight-hand woman.

I applauded that aspect, and had thought of writing to ask that the relationship between Amethyst and Turquoise be developed, without the tragedy that the "Guinevere" element (in this universe, Prince Topaz) brought to the "Arthur-Lancelot" friendship.

Unfortunately, in this regular comic, it looks as though the tragic triangle is appearing. Amethyst has been attracted to Prince Topaz, and he loves her. But Lady Turquoise also loves Prince Topaz, and resents the reappearance of Amethyst. Will this destroy the budding friendship between the two women? I hope not. Amethyst could use a close friend, and I feel that Lady Turquoise would be the best candidate.

One last complaint about the maxi-series. I don't feel there were enough hints in the Gemworld segments to give us a clue to Amethyst's final decision in issue #12 to resume her earth-life as Amy. I know it was originally intended to be a "closed" maxi-series, but I would have appreciated more background for her choice.

But now I've read two issues of your regular line, and it looks like it's going to be interesting.

But please heed my request and find some way to patch up matters between Amethyst and Turquoise.

Sarah Finnegan
Washington, DC

Let's just say, Sarah, that it's going to be real tough for Amethyst and Turquoise to resume their friendship, since they're both in love with Prince Topaz, and he with them. Ultimately, one of the three in this fiery love triangle will be taking some definitive action—but as for which one...ah, well, we're not telling!

Dear Geminians:

So much to say and not so much as a filing cabinet to store it in. Your artwork

is still superior to others, even though Ric Estrada has replaced Ernie. However, I am glad to see Colón's work every now and again. Now for the issues at hand.

Carl and Orville. Orville, as in popcorn? Come on. Nice touch, though, putting them on Earth. What mischief will they be up to? Can Amy and Emmy handle it? What will the neighbors think? Does it matter what the neighbors think? Probably not.

This Fire Jade is interesting. Her powers seem unlimited. Of course, "seem" is the key word. She does appear to have a weakness: the one noble she cannot bear to destroy. Your readers, naturally, want to know exactly who that is.

My suspicion there leads me to discuss Topaz. Whereupon learning of his true, undying I'll-never-let-you-go-please-don't-leave-me-I've-forgotten-all-about-that-dazzling-hero-type-person-called-Amethyst-just-kiss-me-now passion for Turquoise, my immediate response was "No! That's not how it's supposed to be! No no no no no no no no!" I cannot stand by and let you do this without hearing from me about it. How could you?! I know the course of true love never ran smooth, but ...

Okay, it's all right, I'm calm.

Now, I've read letters suggesting names for that winged equine of Amethyst's and in #11 in the maxi-series I wrote one of my choices. I'm doing it again. How about Avalon, Xanth, Starcrystal? You've gotta choose soon.

Reading through LEGION #319, I met the mysterious Monitor with Lyla and the overgrown Smurf. You must admit, these are the same "people" as in AMETHYST #2. Tell me, what are they doing in two such different times? Have they been in any other comic galaxies? Very clever of you, Karen, since you are editor to both LEGION and AMETHYST.

Well, 'nuff said.

Power to the Purple Throne,
Noel Royer
815 Newfound Harbor Dr.
Merritt Island, FL 32952

The Monitor and Lyla have been appearing in the majority of the DC books over the past year. Noel, in a foreshadowing of their roles in the dynamic, explosive CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS maxi-series, which debuted last month. If you haven't already seen this incredible work by Merv Wolfman and George Pérez that is guaranteed to change the entire DC Universe forever, run right out

to your local comic store or newsstand and get it! And (I almost forgot) Amy Winston will be appearing in it, as well, so be sure to be on the look-out!

Now, as for that nameless winged unicorn... I hereby officially declare this to be the beginning of the "name that unicorn" contest! The winner will receive a piece of original AMETHYST art autographed by the current team! So get those creative thinking caps on, and send your entries to:

UNICORN CONTEST C/O PURPLE PROSE

DC COMICS
666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10103

The deadline is March 1, 1985; and the winner will be announced in this column. Good luck!

Dear Purple Prose,

I have never written to you yet. I have the whole maxi-series, the AMETHYST ANNUAL, and two issues of the regular series. Amethyst is my favorite comic. My favorite character of all is Sardonyx.

I have a couple of questions to ask: What happened to Fauna? I haven't seen her in the latest issues. In issue #2, how did Sardonyx's kingdom get washed away? Are the people who moved in next door to Amy really Dark Opal and Carnelian?

I hope to see more of Amy's dog Teffy. I hope Sardonyx goes to earth at least once in a while. I haven't seen any more of the little green dragon who gave Amy her pendant in issue #1 of the maxi-series.

Sincerely,

Scott Millar

7842 Carla Road
Baltimore, MD 21208

Taking your questions in order, Scott:

1) As Laral mentioned in "Sleepwalkers" (issue #2), Fauna fled the House of Amethyst (off-camera) during the fight against Dark Opal, because she knew that her evil alliance was uncovered. But since Dark Opal's out of the picture now, Fauna might feel that it's time to come out of hiding soon.

2) Sardonyx's kingdom was engulfed by some strange elemental powers and next issue we'll finally see what really happened to the Lord of the Serpents' lost kingdom and family.

3) Yes, it really is Carnelian/Carl next door to Amy, but as witnessed in last month's story, Uncle Orville isn't really that other guy.

Dear Karen,

This is really great! I have waited a long time for Amethyst's/Amy's return to production. She is something that has been lacking in comics for quite awhile. Although Zetanne is very close to this, she doesn't have her own comic. Oh, well. I cannot believe what you have done! Someone out there must really have a demented sense of humor. (No offense meant, okay, guys??) Are you trying to make poor Amy paranoid? Her worst enemy to date and his adopted son have just moved in next door! Someone must really be out to get her! Your peeping Tom on page 10, panel 6, is really spooky. This is really just in time for Halloween. As of this letter, I regret that I have not been able to find your AMETHYST ANNUAL, but I promise that I will before the year's out. Another thing, please don't let Citrina die! Amethyst needs her wisdom and her guiding hand. Without Citrina, Amethyst will have to learn how to use her powers by herself, and that might prove to be fatal. Anyway, keep up the great work, and you will hear from me in a month's time.

Yours truly,
Scott Adams
Lacombe, AB, Canada

Dear Purple Ones,

With #2, I'm glad to see you're "opening up" the Gemworld to us. Instead of concentrating just on infighting amongst the aristocracy, you are now starting to look at the common people more. The situation on Gemworld certainly has precedence in our world history. Throughout history (and probably especially in Medieval times) the elites of different nations have fought each other and/or the elite of one nation has fought amongst itself. This has been particularly true when the elites have been closely related (via marriage, etc.) to one another—as in Medieval times. In such situations, the welfare of the common people is overlooked. Indeed, it is usually sacrificed in order to help support (monetarily) the battles. The common people up until modern times were not really involved in the battles except as victims. They did not fight (very much) in the battles and the battles were seen not as battles between nations (if indeed the concept of "nation" existed) but rather as contests between and amongst the elites. Thus, the common person felt no stake in the battles but may have been drafted into service, taxed to support the effort, or had his land destroyed by one of the conflicts. Such is a breeding ground for discontent.

Interestingly enough, however, revolts of the common people have been surprisingly few and far between under such circumstances. Usually this has been because of a lack of organization due to the facts of the time: illiteracy, lack of good transportation, a focus on local affairs only, etc.

Applying this to Gemworld, we see that an outside force, Fire Jade, has

been necessary to incite action. Is this because the commoners lacked the ability to revolt or lacked the true desire to do so? And even though Gemworld is rather Medieval in many ways, there is a strong sense of nationalism in the people. Thus, the situation is a mixture of historical precedent and fantasy elements. I await the direction(s) that you will choose to take—or not take.

Yours truly,
"T.M. Maple"
Weston, Ont.

The people of the Aquamarine Archipelago were the first subjects of the current Gemworld domains to rise up and rebel, T.M., and you're very right about Fire Jade being the necessary catalyst for them. The Aquamarinians were miserable for ages, and Fire Jade, aware of their extreme discontent, purposely chose their kingdom for the first step in her (thwarted) attempt of total Gemworld domination.

Dear Karen,

Having finished my obligatory second reading of AMETHYST #2, I find myself in the difficult position of having to rethink my position on this new incarnation of our Purple Princess.

Having obviously seen my opinions on the Annual (you printed them, I assume you read them first), you must think I'm awfully down on the new series. But (lo and behold) your response to my letter in AMY #2 was spot on. After reading the first two issues, I am very satisfied. The tone and the plots are indeed back to standard, and once again, the Gemworld seems like a very real place, and not just another world to do a comic book on.

"Sleepwalkers" was very well written; the pacing of the various subplots was among the best I have ever seen. Amy's confusion as to what she really wants from the Gemworld (if anything at all) was well portrayed, and her reaction to seeing Prince Topaz with Turquoise was perfect for her dichotic personality.

Fire Jade is becoming an enthralling character, even though her speech tends toward the cliché. I hope that next time we will see some sort of revelation about her origin, since she doesn't yet seem to have a motive (except her lust for power) for doing in the nobles of the Gemworld.

More of Amy's Earth-life!! I want desperately to see an entire issue set on Earth, without magic, without world-shattering plots, without lives in the balance. Maybe just a heavy confrontation between 13-year-old Amy and 13-year-old Carl/Carnelian. Maybe they should start going out together. That would be a weird situation.

Thanks for listening; it's going great!
Continued Success!

Rob Hagiwara
358 Lander Hall HM-10
1101 NE Campus Parkway
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98106

Don't know about Amy and Carl dating

each other, Rob, but Amy's next-door neighbor will have his eyes set on some other lovely lass, and he's not without his usual evil intent!

Dear Everybody,

This is it! The very first letter I ever wrote. I'm glad Amy/Amethyst is back. She's terrific. I see that Sardonyx is up to his old tricks, always planning evil. I can hardly wait to see more of Carl/Carnelian and Dark Opal. Fire Jade with her plans is keeping me on the edge of my seat! I hope Emmy gets back to the Gemworld pretty soon.

The art and coloring is terrific. It really captures the Gemworld in its finest. When I read the first issue in the maxi-series, I knew I would stick with Amethyst until the end. Now that she is starring in her series, I know I'm going to stick with it!

Hail Amethyst, long may she live!
Good luck with the series, from a true Amethyst fan.

Heather Piniak, Age 12
7839 Monroe, Ave
Munster, IN 46321

Dear Purple Prose,

It's great to have Amethyst back! I've been a fan of hers since the maxi-series began, and she's still in the same capable hands. Having Princess Emerald on Earth as well should open up some very interesting possibilities. I just finished AMETHYST #1, and am anxiously awaiting more. Maybe Herb and Marion Winston could actually visit the Gemworld to see firsthand what it's like. Plus, I hope Fire Jade's hold on Prince Topaz can be broken. I think he really helped Amethyst mature and I don't want to see them split up. In short, Amethyst is the brightest thing to come up in a very long time, and I myself would like to offer my congratulations and thanks. Long live Princess Amethyst!

Rosemary Howell, Age 25
545 N. Mollison Ave.
San Diego, CA 92021

NEXT MONTH: The only way for Amethyst to stop Sardonyx from killing Citrina is to join forces with her hated foe as they venture to the Well of Vision and find Sardonyx's kingdom! But are they too late to save thousands of people?

See you soon, everyone. Take care—
Karen



MEANWHILE.

Just when I thought we had finished introducing you to everyone (although it's really been almost a year by now), I have someone else for you to meet. Rather than have her do an autobiography, I asked our resident reporter, Bob Greenberger, to bring us the lowdown on Barbara Randall:



BOB: So tell us, who is Barbara Randall and how did she get to DC Comics?

BARBARA: United Airlines. Actually, I was never really a comics fan. I sort of fell into reading them as a teenager. I jumped into being a writer from the cold. Dick ran a letter in **DETECTIVE COMICS**, talking about female superheroes, and invited suggestions on the subject. So, I wrote a long letter with a critique and suggestions—just to be helpful.

Dick called and offered me the Batgirl assignment and I wrote one two-parter that saw print and another two-parter that's been used to train new talent. What happened was, Dick gave up editing the Batman titles and Len took them over and he chose to use Green Arrow instead of Batgirl.

BOB: That was all in 1981. What happened to you since then?

BARBARA: I went back to finish college and received a BA from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona in Drama. I concentrated on costuming; spent the rest of my time writing plays or painting scenery. I then worked full-time for the Pomona Public Library as a Circulation Clerk and Reference Clerk.

BOB: Why didn't you continue trying to write?

BARBARA: I kept getting cold feet. I'm psychotically shy and I didn't think I was ready. DC kept more in touch with me than I did with them.

I finally got gutsy when my father and I got free airplane tickets to New York. I came last May and spent the week reading in the library and spoke with Dick about how useful I could be to the staff. When an opening presented itself in the late summer, Dick called and I was ready. I packed all my stuff and came out here, starting on October 29.

BOB: What was your first impression of comics' professionals?

BARBARA: Well, I went to my first comics convention in San Diego just after Dick called me the first time. He was going to be at the show and he wanted to talk to me, so I went, having never seen a comics fan or a professional. I left a message at Dick's hotel, saying I was 5'4", had brown hair, a red shirt, blue jeans, and a frightened expression.

I then watched a panel with Julie and Len and went up to Julie afterward, asking if he could describe Dick to me.

He heard I was expected, so he and Len each grabbed an elbow and we went looking for Dick. We were going upstairs and there was this man standing at the top, pointing a finger at me. Yep, it was Dick.

He took me to lunch with Don Newton and we talked comics all afternoon. Later, there was a party for

Julie's birthday, which Jenette Kahn attended, and it was wonderful!

BOB: Now that you're here, what's your impression?

BARBARA: Ohboyforeureneat-o! I'm having a wonderful time. The first thing I learned about New York is that the drivers are crazy! Then, when I got to the office, the first thing I learned to say was, "Marv, it's late." The second thing I learned was how to raid Len's candy jar.

BOB: Why don't you mention the books you're working on?

BARBARA: OK. I'm an Associate Editor, working with Marv on both **TEEN TITANS** titles and **VIGILANTE**. But that's just for starters. I figure I'll be running this company in five years, but I told Dick I'd keep him for another ten. I also hope to be doing some more writing in the future.



What Barb didn't mention is her always sunny disposition and the marvelous nonsense language she invented, which I call Barbspeak. At best, it sounds like this: "(chirrup) dr̄yā chiraasaka numukai (chirrup)." Better yet, she keeps her own candy jar on the desk, filled with gummy bears that taste great but do nothing for my figure. Having Barbara on board has made the workload a little easier on all of us and she will be contributing to more titles in time. And, Barb, thanks for letting me stay on those ten years.

Meanwhile, Thank You and Good Afternoon.

Dick

DC
ON SALE WEEK
CHECK
OF FEBRUARY 14
LIST

- ☐ **Batman 383:** If Catwoman is dead, then who's prowling the streets of Gotham?
- ☐ **The Flash 345:** Kid Flash, under oath, destroys the Flash's defense!
- ☐ **Superman 407:** Jimmy, Lois, and Perry all share Superman's powers!
- ☐ **Star Trek 14:** In the Mirror Universe, Kirk and company find themselves betrayed!
- ☐ **Amethyst 5:** Amethyst and Carnellon think they've found a

- permanent path back to the Gemworld!
- ☐ **Jemm, Son of Saturn 9:** Synn attacks New Bhok!
- ☐ **Arak, Son of Thunder 44:** Amid a pirate stronghold, Arak battles a man who wants to be a god of death!
- ☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 10:** Someone is trying to kill all three candidates for President of Earth!
- ☐ **Omega Men 26:** A new creative team, a new direction, and a new backup series! The Spider Guild strikes!